

March 6, 2014

Marlene H. Dortch

Secretary

Federal Communications Commission

445 12th Street, S.W.

Washington, D.C. 20554

Attn: Wireline Competition Bureau

RE: WC Docket No. 10-90

Rural Broadband Experiment Expression of Interest

Dear Ms. Dortch:

The purpose of this letter is to express interest in participating in the Commission's Rural Broadband Experiment.

Pembroke Telephone Cooperative (PemTel) is a telecommunications cooperative located in Pembroke, Virginia. PemTel provides voice service to 2,432 customers, broadband to 1,363 and video to 1,155 customers in the eastern portion of Giles County, VA and southern part of Craig County, Virginia. PemTel is the Incumbent Local Exchange Carrier (ILEC) provider in 2 exchanges (540/626 & 540/544) covering an area of 177 square miles, including the Jefferson National Forest, in rural Virginia.

The areas that PemTel has an interest in are the adjacent areas to Pembroke Telephone's certificate serving area, which is served by a price cap provider. PemTel is interested in receiving funds to serve the customers in those adjacent areas. The current provider does not provide DSL/Broadband to those customers and due to the close proximately of PemTel's service area, those customers are constantly requesting PemTel to serve the area. This area is very rural and unserved. There are no schools, libraries, fire depts., hospitals and doctor offices in this area, thus, it appears that no provider, including the current provider, wants to the make the investment to provide broadband there. The citizens in this area receive broadband through their cell phones and satellite providers, which due to the mountainous topography, the service is very unreliable. With the small number of customers in this area and the potential take rate, the high cost to serve these customers, (rock, pole attachments, low subscriber count per mile) makes it hard to obtain a return on investment even with a low matching grant. With PemTel being a Cooperative, it is also hard to justify spending member money to build out to those underserved areas outside of the certificated area.

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March 6, 2014 - Page 2

PROPOSED SERVICE AREA

This experiment will provide voice and broadband service to adjacent areas to the PemTel serving areas in Giles County, VA where it is needed and feasible for PemTel to serve AND as funding is available.

STATE COUNTY CO

COUNTY NAME

VA

Giles

Giles County, VA

PROPOSED SERVICES

PemTel would provide voice and broadband service to those selected areas.

FUNDING

PemTel would not be able to serve the aforementioned areas unless adequate funding is provided.

Pembroke Telephone Cooperative appreciates the opportunity to provide this <u>non-binding</u> expression of interest. Please contact Lisa W. Epperley or Tony Eaton at 540/626-7111 with any questions you may have.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa W. Epperley

General Manager